

MARVEL



IRON MAN

SPACEKNIGHT

60c

U.K. 25p
CAN. 75c

52

MAR



TOTAL WAR!

DEEP DOWN IN THE DARK BOSOM OF MOTHER EARTH, A COVEN OF PURE WRAITH SORCESSSES CONGREGATES TO CONSIDER THE MYRIAD WAYS IN WHICH TO CARRY OUT THEIR COMPLETE CONQUEST OF OUR WORLD!

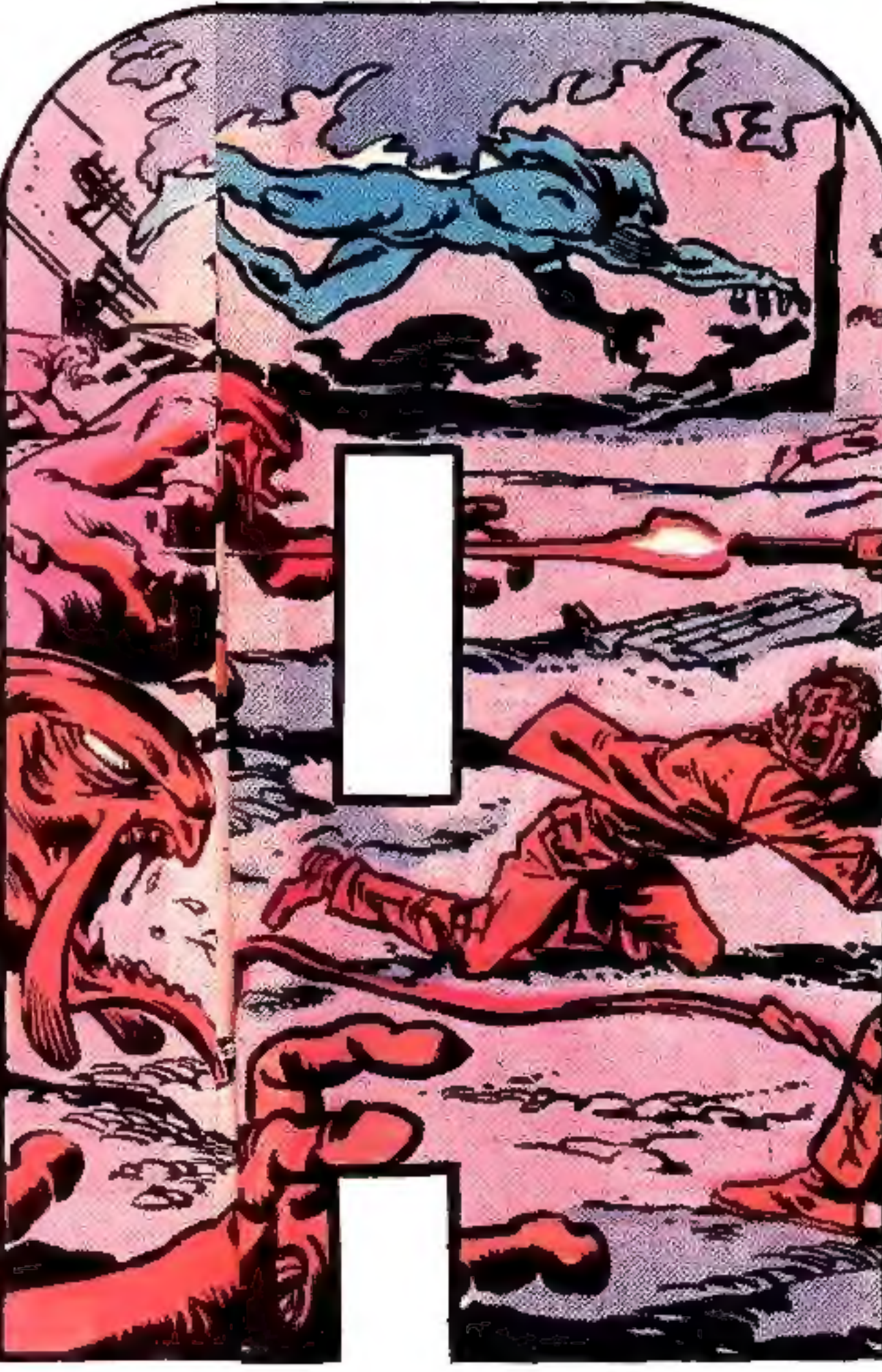
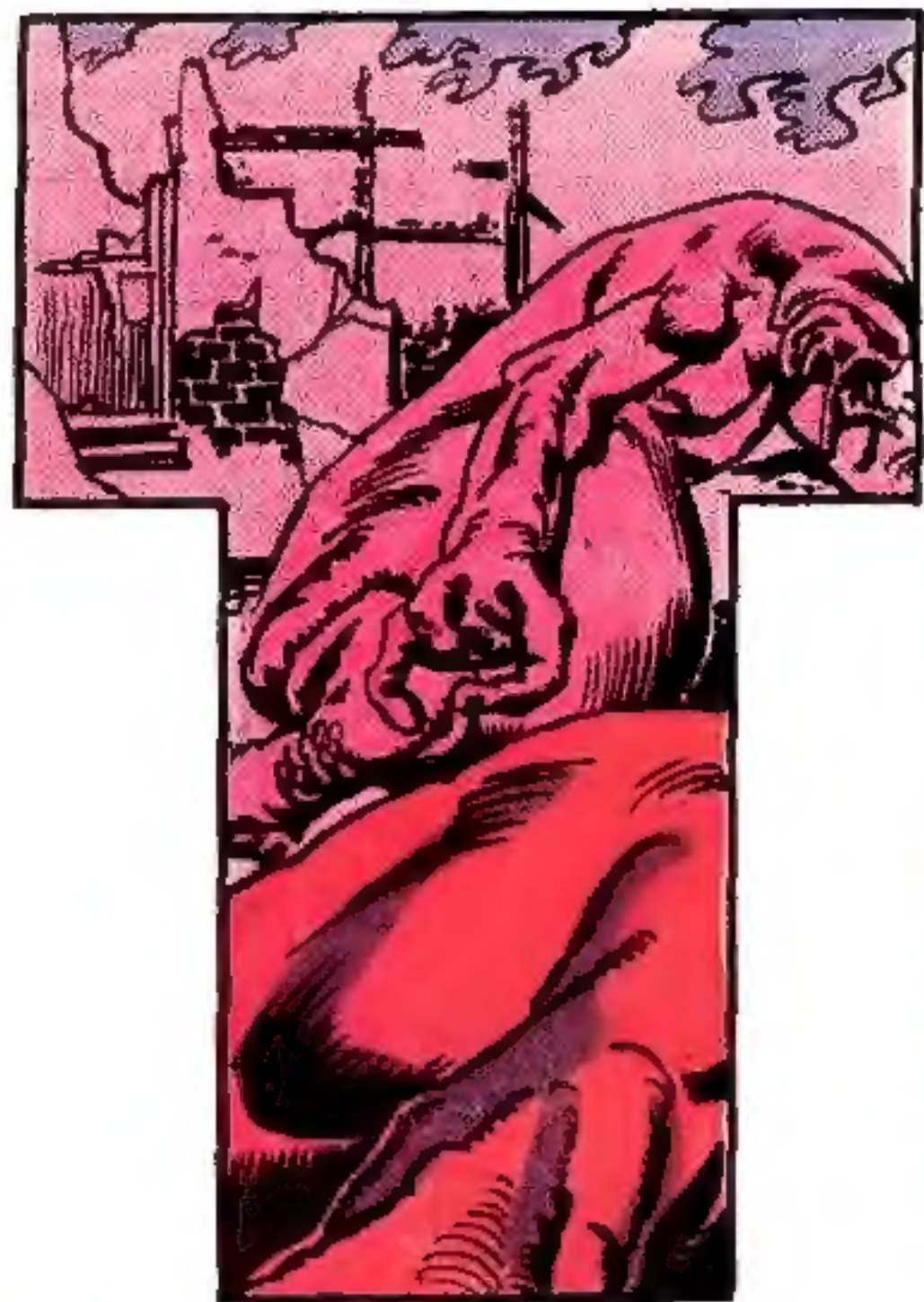
HEED ME,
SISTERS! YOU ALL
HEARD ROM--GREATEST
OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--
ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTION
TO EXTERMINATE EVERY
LAST WRAITH ON
EARTH!

THAT ALTERS OUR
GOAL OF TURNING THIS
WORLD INTO A SPRINGBOARD
FOR OUR EVENTUAL ATTACK
ON GALADOR!

AYE! NOW
WRAITHKIND MUST
FIGHT FOR ITS SURVIVAL
ON THIS PITIFUL
PLANET!

AND FIGHT WE
WILL, SISTERS, WITH
THE ARCANES ARTS
THAT ARE OURS TO
COMMAND!

WE WILL TURN
EARTH INTO A
GRAVEYARD AS WE
WAGE AGAINST
ROM...



STAR LINE PRESENTS: THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--**ROM!**

BILL MANTLO
STORY
SAL BUSCEMA
AND MEL CANDIDO
ART
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERS
BEN SEAN
COLORS
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
PRIME DIRECTOR

THIS WAS A SMALL,
THRIVING CITY ON
AMERICA'S EASTERN
SEABOARD...

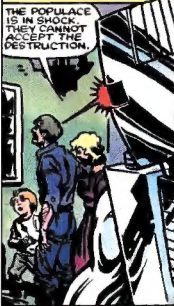
... BEFORE THE
COMING OF THE
DIRE WRAITHS!



THE SOLDIERS HAVE SEEN COMBAT IN FOREIGN LANDS. IMAGINE, IF THEY ARE HORRIFIED BY THE DEVASTATION AND DEATH ABOUT THEM...



...HOW THE CIVILIAN POPULATION--THOSE THAT SURVIVED--ARE REACTING TO THE FIRST BATTLE ON AMERICAN SOIL SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.



...AND CRIES OUT AS IT REGISTERS FAINT EMANATIONS OF LIFE-ENERGY FROM BENEATH THE RUINS.

STARSHINE!

SURVIVORS, ROM?

PERHAPS, TRAIN YOUR LIGHTEYES UPON THE MASS OF FALLEN MASONRY BEFORE US--

"--AND LET THEM REVEAL THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN FROM ALL OTHER EYES!"

THE GOLDEN GLADIATRIX DOES AS THE SILVER SPACEKNIGHT BIDS HER...

...AND, HUDDLED AND HELPLESS, A FAMILY OF HUMANS IS REVEALED.

THEY LIVE, ROM, BUT THEIR BREATHING IS LABORED.

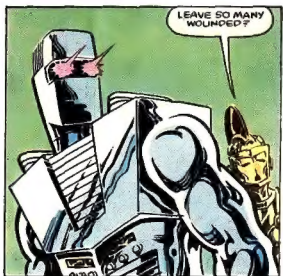
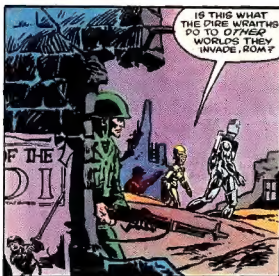
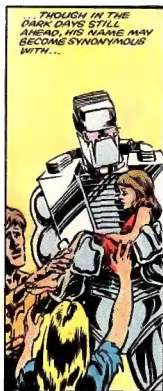
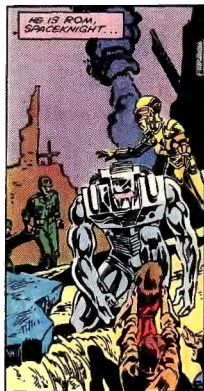
THEY WILL SOON DIE WITHOUT AIR--

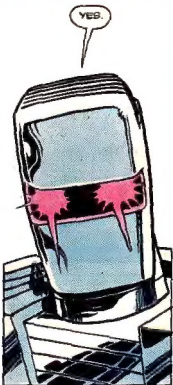
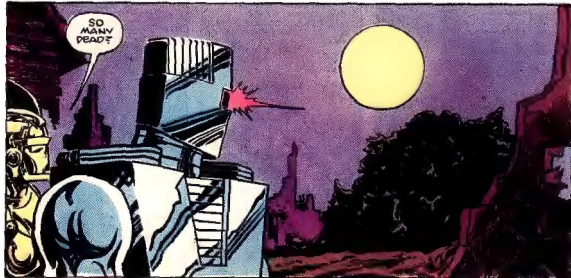
--UNLESS WE REACH THEM!

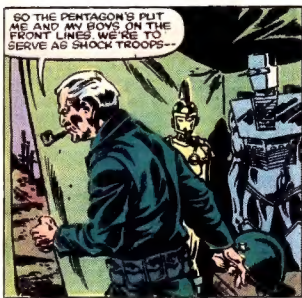
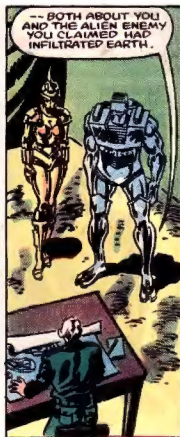
RISE FROM THE GRAVE THE WRAITH WOULD HAVE DUG FOR YOU, HUMANS.

RISE AND WALK THE EARTH ONCE MORE.

HE IS ROM-- SPACEKNIGHT OF CALADOR-- A GRAFT OF MAN TO MACHINE WHOSE UNION WITH HIS CYBORG ARMOR IMBUES HIM WITH MATCHLESS MIGHT.









I DON'T THINK THAT
REALIZATION WILL BE LONG
IN COMING, DO YOU?



NO, NOT ONCE
THE DEATH TOLL
MOUNTS.

NOT ONCE
OUR CITIES AND
TOWNS ARE LAID
TO WASTE--

"--THE WAY THE COLONIES OF ROM'S WORLD, GALADOR, WERE
PILLAGED AND PLUNDERED, THEIR PEOPLES SLAIN, BEFORE THE
COMING OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS STOPPED THE WRAITH INVASION...



"...AND DROVE THEM, IN FEAR AND LOATHING, TO OTHER
WORLDS FAR BEYOND GALADOR'S PALE."



YES TO OTHER
WORLDS. MY
WORLD, GALADOR
SAVED ITSELF--

--AND NOW THE
WRAITHS HAVE
SET UP A BEACH-
HEAD ON EARTH!



OTHER WORLDS HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY INFILTRATED. GENERAL AND OTHER SPACEKNIGHTS HAVE FORSWORN THE PEACE THEIR STRUGGLES SHOULD HAVE WON FOR THEM--

--FORSAKING HEARTH AND HOME TO PRESERVE OTHERS FROM THE PERIL POSED BY WRAITHKIND.

I'M... SORRY, ROM. I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPLY THAT GALADOR PURCHASED HER OWN HAPPINESS BY MAKING MY WORLD MISERABLE.

NO WORLD CAN BE TRULY AT PEACE, GENERAL--NO STAR SYSTEM CAN TRULY CONSIDER ITSELF SAFE--SO LONG AS WRAITHS EXIST.

THEIR ABORTIVE INVASION OF GALADOR COST THEM DEARLY. IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THEY NEVER REALLY RECOVERED FROM IT--

--BUT, NO MATTER HOW DIMINISHED THEIR NUMBERS, NO MATTER HOW DISPERSED THEIR RACE...

...THEY ARE, AS YOU CAN SEE, CAPABLE OF WREAKING INCREDIBLE CARNAGE.

YES, SPACEKNIGHT... I CAN SEE THAT.

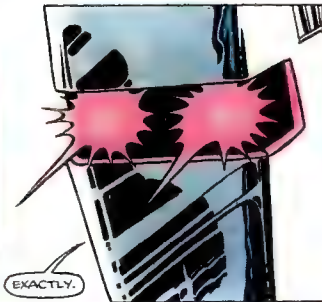
AH, THE DESTRUCTION IS DEVASTATING... BUT TAKE COURAGE FROM THE FACT THAT THE WRAITH ASSAULT ON THIS TINY MUNICIPALITY REVEALED BOTH OUR ENEMIES' STRENGTH... AND THEIR WEAKNESSES.

WEAKNESSES?

YES, THE WRAITHS SUCCEEDED IN THEIR SLAUGHTER THIS NIGHT AGAINST ONE UNARMED, UNPREPARED MUNICIPALITY

HAD THE CITIZENRY BEEN WARNED OF THEIR COMING, AND GIVEN TIME TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THEM--

--THE DIRE WRAITHS WOULD HAVE BEEN BEATEN BACK INTO THE DARKNESS.



AS AN ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS DOING SOMETHING TO MEET THE WRAITH THREAT, PROJECT WRAITHWATCH IS INITIATED.

HERE YOU HAVE IT, SPACEKNIGHTS! THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM EVER ASSEMBLED!

WITH IT, WE COULD PROBABLY PREDICT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ENEMY'S ATTACK FROM DATA ON WHAT HE ATE FOR BREAKFAST--

--AND TAKE ACTION TO PETER HIM BEFORE HE'D EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO DIGEST HIS FOOD.

A HUMAN ENEMY, THAT IS, BUT SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME HOW ALL THIS IS SUPPOSED TO LOCATE THESE BLASTED PIRE WRAITHS?

IT CANNOT, GENERAL...

...UNLESS AUGMENTED BY GALADOR'S SUPER-SCIENCE.

IF YOUR TECHNICIANS ARE READY--

AT ROM'S REQUEST, A HUGE WORLD-GLOBE HOLOGRAM HAD BEEN PREPARED. IT NOW FLICKERS BEFORE THE SILVER SPACEKNIGHT.

--STARSHINE AND I WILL COMMENCE THE DEMONSTRATION.

WHAT DO YOU WISH
ME TO DO, ROM?

THE HOLOGRAM
HAS ALREADY
BEEN ENHANCED
BY MY ENERGY
ANALYZER TO
BE SENSITIVE
TO DIRE WRAITH
ENGRAMS,
STARSHINE.

WE HAVE NOW BUT
TO TRAIN MY
ANALYZER AND
YOUR LIGHT-
EYES UPON
THE PRO-
JECTION--

"-- TO REVEAL THE WRAITHS'
STRONGHOLDS UPON EARTH!"

OH, MY GOD!
THERE ARE...

...SO MANY.

YES... SO MANY...
AND SOME OF
THEM ARE--

--HERE!!



G-GENERAL ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THAT ALIEN TO INSULT THAT SOME OF YOUR STAFF ARE *INHUMAN*?

THAT "ALIEN" WAS BORN HERE ON *EARTH*, GENTLEMEN.



WHICH IS MORE THAN CAN BE SAID, SOLDIERS--



"--OF SOME OF YOU!"

SOURCES! OUR DISGUISE IS PENETRATED! THE ACCURSED LIGHTEYES OF STARSHINE PERCEIVE OUR PRESENCE!

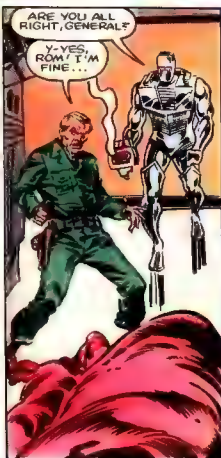
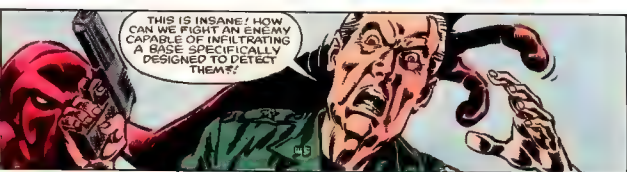


BUT LET THAT BE THE LAST THING HER EYES EVER SEE!!!



THE WRAITHS' SUPERNATURAL ASSAULT IS SWIFT, SUDDEN AND SAVAGE. BEFORE EITHER THE SPACEKNIGHTS OR SOLDIERS CAN RECOVER FROM THEIR SURPRISE, THEY FIND THEMSELVES ENTANGLED IN TWISTING TENDRILS OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.







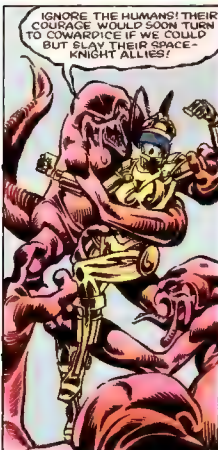
WELL, BOYS? ARE YOU WITH ME??

AGAINST ANY ENEMY, GENERAL-- WHEREVER YOU LEAD--

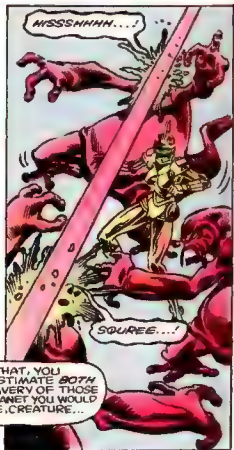


--EVEN IF IT BE TO HELL AND BACK!!!

AGAINST FIENDS LIKE THE DIRE WRAITHS, SOLDIER, HELL MAY WELL BE THE FINAL BATTLEFIELD!



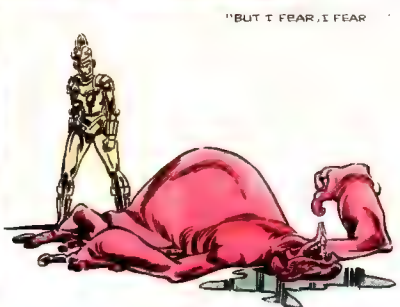
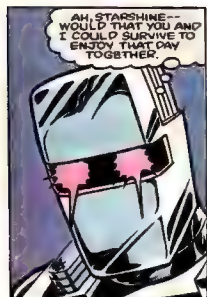
IGNORE THE HUMANS! THEIR COURAGE WOULD SOON TURN TO COWARDICE IF WE COULD BUT SLAY THEIR SPACE-KNIGHT ALLIES!



WSSSHHHH...!

SQUIRE...!

IN THAT, YOU UNDERESTIMATE BOTH THE BRAVERY OF THOSE WHOSE PLANET YOU WOULD ENSLAVE, CREATURE...



WHATEVER PERIL THE FUTURE MAY POSE, THE HEAT OF BATTLE IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR PROPHECY OR PREDICTIONS.

STARSHINE, OUR
ENEMY SLITHERS
AWAY!

NO!

FOR EACH SHAPE THEY ASSUMED, A HUMAN
SOLDIER LIES SLAIN! WE CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO
GAIN THE IDENTITIES OF OTHER POOR INNOCENTS!

THEN WE MUST BE
SWIFT IN OUR PURSUIT
OF THEM, MY LOVE--

THE TRUTH OF ROM'S STATE-
MENT IS SOON BROUGHT HOME
TO THE MISSING HORRORS
AHEAD OF HIM...

--ALTHOUGH
IT APPEARS THAT
THEY HAVE NOWHERE
LEFT TO RUN!

THE COMMAND
CENTER IS SEALED
OFF! WE CANNOT
ESCAPE! AND THERE
IS LITTLE TIME TO
PREPARE SPELLS!

INDEED, WRAITH--
YOU SHALL NEVER
EXPOSE HUMANITY TO
YOUR HORROR
AGAIN.

BRAVE WORDS,
ROM, GREATEST OF
THE SPACEKNIGHTS!

Bulpen Bulletins

SPECIAL

Greetings, faithful ones!

It's the again — two-fisted Tom DeFalco, mighty Marvel's very own Executive Editor, and Mike Carlin, my very own Executive Editor, are Mark Gruenwald, Mike Catlin, and Eliot R. Brown — those wonderful folks who've been bringing you THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. Needless to say this handbook has been creating quite a stir among fans and pros alike.

TOM: We might as well start at the beginning. Who came up with the idea of doing The Handbook?

MARK: It was originally Jim Shooter's idea. He told me that he thought of it because he was always receiving mail from readers who asked all sorts of technical questions.

ELIOT: Things like "Can Spider-Man's webbing conduct electrical impulses?"

MIKE: "How does the Angel fly?"

MARK: "How far can Mr. Fantastic stretch?"

MIKE: "Can Ben Grimm sell an entire air-foot here sandwich without belching?"

TOM: Er, yes.

MARK: The Handbook's working title was THE MARVEL SUPER-SPECIFICATIONS HANDBOOK. ELIOT: But "specifications" sounds too formal.

MARK: And it made for a bad logo design.

MIKE: Besides, we couldn't find a letterer who knew how to spell it.

MARK: And you know how Jim Shooter persists every time he hears the word, "super."

MIKE: It's pitiful.

ELIOT: We must have had a very traumatic ex-

perience with that word when he was but a mere slip of a boy.

TOM: Never mind that. I want to learn more about The Handbook.

MARK: I appropriated the title, "MARVEL UNIVERSE," from Al Milgrim. It was one of the working titles he originally had for MARVEL FANFARE.

ELIOT: And of course we called it the "Official" handbook because it was produced by Marvel.

MIKE: It doesn't contain any of the same old, stupid, ridiculous blunders an outsider would make.

ELIOT: No, since we know the Marvel Universe so intimately, we were able to create NEW, stupid, ridiculous blunders for our readers.

MARK: Contrary to what you might have read elsewhere, the She-Hulk's height is NOT six hundred and fifty pounds.

TOM: I suppose you intend to correct those errors.

MARK: True, we'll be constantly updating The Handbook...

MIKE: In new and different formats!

MARK: Our readers have been very helpful, pointing out the mistakes in the first twelve issues of The Handbook.

ELIOT: Yes, it's so rewarding to receive a few thousand letters each morning.

MIKE: Which tell you what a jerk you are.

TOM: Who decided which characters would be featured in The Handbook?

MARK: I did. As the editor of the project it was my responsibility to decide which characters received a full page entry, which ones got a half page — who made it to the appendix, and who didn't.

MIKE: He deliberately excluded Devil Dinosaur!

ELIOT: The RAT!

MARK: I came up with a master list of characters who were currently active in the Marvel Universe.

TOM: Did you receive any complaints?

MARK: Thousands!

ELIOT: Tens of thousands!

MIKE: Hundreds of tens of thousands!

TOM: I think I'm beginning to get the picture.

MARK: The response was so great that we were forced to publish a thirteenth and fourteenth issue of The Handbook, which included new characters.

ELIOT: ... The Marvel Books Of The Dead!

TOM: If you had given every character in the Marvel Universe his own full page entry, how many issues of The Handbook would you need?

MARK: At least fifty!

ELIOT: New characters are appearing every day.

MIKE: We'd never finish!

TOM: I know this project took a lot of work.

MARK: Mike Eliot and I used to have to camp out in this office for two entire weekends out of every month.

ELIOT: I had to stay more often!

MIKE: But Eliot doesn't count.

MARK: ... Except up to ten!

ELIOT: One, two, three.

MIKE: Our motto was, "Long hours — no showers!"

MARK: We used to make food runs of two and six o'clock in the morning.

MIKE: Not many sandwich shops are opened at that hour.

MARK: But we found them all!

ELIOT: And I still have the heartburn to prove it!

MARK: We had a team of writers who did most of the actual research work, but three of us still had to spend long hours rewriting and correcting the entire manuscript.

In addition to working on the other editorial projects we had... like the monthly issues of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, and The Avengers.

MIKE: After the editorial work was completed on each entry, it still had to be typeset, photographed and polished up by Danny Gershl's production department.

ELIOT: And then, came the proofreading.

TOM: Does it sound like you guys had much fun?

MARK: Oh, we had our share of fun.

MIKE: We used to compose songs and liner notes featuring whichever character we were currently working on.

MARK: "Orka-Dorca-Doo" was my personal favorite.

TOM: "Orka-Dorca-Doo?"

MARK: That song used to produce gales of laughter.

MIKE: Of course, it sounded a lot funnier at five o'clock in the morning.

MARK: Most things do.

TOM: Well, now that you have finished your twelve issue run of The Official Handbook Of The Marvel Universe... your new issues of The Marvel Book Of The Dead... just your new issue of Book Of Wreath...

... what do you have planned next?

MARK: Sleep.

ELIOT: A lot of it.

MIKE: Yeah.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

1. SAVAGE SHORES OF COMAN #97 — The Leopard Men of Darfur. Written by MICHAEL COOPER. Pencils and inks by PABLO MARCUS.

2. MARVEL FANFARE #13 — "The Widow Alone!" Written by RALPH MACCHIO. Breakdowns by GEORGE PERRET. Finishes by JOHN BEATTY and BRETT SPEEDING. Plus TALK-A-ROUND by ALAN ZELENETZ and CHARLES E. KYLE.

3. MARVEL AGE #12 — The inside scoop on the new Cosmic Champions mini-series, plus news and action on the most current happenings at the House of Ideas.

EPIC COMICS

EPIC ILLUSTRATED #22 — Parade the World by CHRIS CLAREMONT. The Dance by JAMES GRADINAS and JIM STARLIN. The new chapters of Generation Zero and The Sacred and the Profane. Plus much more. Low pricing by JOHN BOLTON.

DREADSTAR #8 — Written and penciled by JIM STARLIN. Inks by NED DANKLEDER.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

#8: SUPER BOXERS — Written by JOHN STIMP. Pencils by RON WILSON. Inks by STEPHEN WENZ.

#9: THE FUTURENS — Written and drawn by DAVE COCKRUM. A tale of time travel and super heroes and an ingenious plot to change the course of history by the famed X-MEN.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND REQUESTED GOOCHES

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK

... Ever wonder the best way to break into comics? Here at last is the perfect way to try your hand at creating a Marvel comic. We guarantee this is a book you've never seen before. It's unique format puts you in the shoes of the pros. You get to pencil, ink, write, even color pages of this action packed Spider-Man story. Big Jim Shooter has written how-to-explanations, and the book is printed on the same art size Bristol board we use here at Marvel.

It's yours! You get to pencil, ink, write, even color pages of this action packed Spider-Man story. Big Jim Shooter has written how-to-explanations, and the book is printed on the same art size Bristol board we use here at Marvel.

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THE EIGHTH MARVEL CHECKLIST

THE THUNDER #21 — Written by JOHN BYRNE. Breakdowns by RON WILSON. Finishes by JOE SINNOTT.

DAREDEVIL #204 — Written by DENNY O'NEIL. Pencils by LUKE MCCONNELL. Inks by DANNY BLANKARD.

NEW MUTANTS #13 — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by TOM MANDORAK.

BAZELER #97 — Written by JIM SHOOTER. Pencils by FRANK SPRINGER. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.

COMAN THE KING #21 — Written by ALAN ZELENETZ. Pencils by MARK SILVESTRI. Inks by DAVID SIMON. Cover by MIKE KALITA.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #14 — The Book of the Dead and Dashed Red II. With art by WALT SIMONSON, JOHN BYRNE and others.

SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL SPECIAL EDITION #1 — Reprising FRANK MILLER's very first Daredevil stories from Peter Parker #2 and 3.

G.I. Joe #21 — Written and breakdowns by LARRY HAMA. Pencils by STEVE LALACORA.

ASSASSIN SPIDER-MAN #258 — Written by RYK TP. Pencils by JOHN ROUNTA. Inks by KLAUS JANSON.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #281 — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by JACK ABLE.

THOR #261 — Written, penciled and inked by WALT SIMONSON.

INDIANA JONES #15 — Written by DAVE MICHELSE. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.

MOON KNIGHT #36 — Written by ALAN ZELENETZ. Pencils and inks by BO HAMPTON.

BREATHMATS #87 — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils by BUTCH GUICE. Inks by KELLY JONES.

CRYSTAL #6 — Written by JO DUFFY. Pencils by RICARDO VILLAMONTE. Inks by DWAY SACKETT.

X-MEN: MCRONAUTS (Limited Series) #3 — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BILL MANTLO. Pencils by BUTCH GUICE. Inks by BO HAMPTON.

MAGIK (Myena and Soren Limited Series) #3 — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by TOM MANDORAK.

OR STRANGE SQUAD #1 — Reprising the winning LEE DITKO classics from Strange Tales #1, 10, 12. Plus a reprint from a Jack Kirby and an introduction by JIM LEE.

ADVENTURES #241 — Written by ROGER STEIN. Breakdowns by AL MILGRAM. Finishes by JIM WHITTY.

COMAN #108 — Plot and breakdowns by JOHN BUSCEMA. Pencils by MICHAEL FLEISHER. Finishes by ERNIE CHAN.

MARVEL TALES #181 — Reprising The Golem and the Gargoyles by STEVE LEE and STEVE DITKO. New Series: The Golem.

SABER #178 — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by JOHN ROUNTA. Inks by JOHN GREER.

MIKE — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by MEL CANDIDO.

POWER MANHORN PET #108 — Written by ADAM COOKMAN. Pencils by GREG LAROCHE. Inks by ANDY MUSHINSKY.

ELECTRA SAGA #2 — Reprising the memorable story of the girl Daredevil's lover. Written and drawn by FRANK MILLER, with inks by KLAUS JANSON. Plus pages never seen before in color and a new cover by MILLER.

FANTASTIC FOUR #284 — Written, penciled and inked by JOHN BYRNE.

MARVEL TEAM-UP #138 — Spider-Man and Nick Fury. Written by GARY BURETT. Pencils by BRIAN POSTMAN. Inks by Mike Esposito.

IRON MAN #188 — Written by DENNY O'NEIL. Pencils by LUKE MCCONNELL. Inks by STEVE MITCHELL.

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #88 — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by AL MILGRAM. Finishes by JIM MOONEY.

DEFENDERS #120 — Written by JIM DUMATTE. Pencils by DON PERLIN. Inks by KIM SHOLDER.

TANK WARS #91 — Written by JO DUFFY. Breakdowns by RON FRENZ. Finishes by TOM PALMER.

HERCULES (Limited Series) #1 — Written, penciled and inked by BOB LAYTON.

JOHN OF MOUNTAINS (Limited Series) #1 — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils and inks by JOHN OF MOUNTAINS.

CAPTAIN AMERICA SPECIAL EDITION #3 — Reprising the starring STERANKO. Captain America with STAN LEE. From C.A. #113, plus a Captain America/Captain Fury tale from Strange Tales, and a new cover by STERANKO.

BREATHMATS SPECIAL EDITION #4 — Reprising the early MCRONAUTS strips by BILL MANTLO. Inks by MICHAEL GOLDEN.

PROMISE THE UNWORLD STORY #1 — CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE and TERRY AUSTIN's Promise strip with the original, never-before-printed ending. Plus an interview with Chris, John and Terry.

BUT, THOUGH YOU CUT US
DOWN--OR BANISH US TO THE
PHANTOM-LIGHT OF SOME OTHER-
DIMENSIONAL LIMBO...

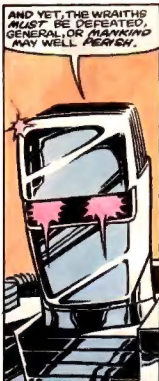
...OUR SORCEROUS SISTERS
SHALL STILL SURVIVE, TO CONJURE
TERROR THE LIKES OF WHICH
NOT EVEN YOUR CYBORG EYES
HAVE EVER SEEN!

THAT THREAT
WRAITH, HAS SEALED
YOUR DOOM!

ROM'S NEUTRALIZER NO LONGER SINGS
ITS SONG OF BANISHMENT. NOW IT BRINGS
FORTH A DIRGE OF-- DEATH! STARSHINE'S
LIGHTYES, ALSO, DO NOT BANISH. THEY
SLAY.

ROM WOULD PREFER
THAT STARSHINE
TEMPERED HER MISSION
WITH MERCY...

... BUT EARTH IS, AFTER ALL, BRANDY CLARK'S WORLD-- AND WHO IS HE TO TELL THIS WOMAN OF EARTH HOW TO FIGHT HER WAR?



NEXT
MONTH

NICK FURY AND HIS AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ARE ENLISTED IN THE BATTLE AGAINST WRAITHKIND! DON'T MISS...

PARANOIA STRIKES DEEP!

PLUS THE RETURN OF RICK JONES!

SPACE NOTES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Ralph,

The cover of ROM #47 was ominous and terrifying! I feel that the scene of the new Dire Wraith emerging from the blackness makes for an award-winning cover. The intro to the main story was reminiscent of the early monster magazine days at Marvel (days which I still miss).

The way the Wraiths attain their maturity is truly repulsive! I thought I disliked the Wraith race before, but now I totally loathe them!

It was a bit surprising to see this powerful beginning lead into an almost lighthearted comedy. This issue was almost two stories in one. I feel sorry for the faithful android servant, Brynook. Perhaps we will see him again some day.

CK
Torrejan AB, Spain
APO New York 09283

The introduction of the new Dire Wraiths certainly struck a chord among Romophiles everywhere. CK. Some folks loved 'em (if you can love a Dire Wraith, that is) and some folks hated 'em (a natural reaction, we think. The Wraiths are not exactly out to win any popularity contests). But, everyone seems to agree that they present a new and clear threat to Earth and to Rom. Read on...

Dear Bill, Sal and Ralph,

Recently the level of excellence achieved in ROM has surpassed the Hybrid/X-Men/Limbo trilogy in issues #17-19. ROM #47 was magnificent! What made this issue was the appearance of the "new" Dire Wraiths. I had seen the preview of the sorcerous Wraiths in MARVEL AGE #4, and Sal did a super job putting that design to use. The new Wraiths make the old look like teddy bears. It shall be interesting to see if Rom's Neutralizer has the same effect on the sorcerous Wraiths as it does on the scientific Wraiths.

Roger Williams
305 Monroe Street
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Marvel,

I had mixed feelings about ROM #47. The new Dire Wraiths seem to be a step down the evolutionary ladder instead of a step up. They are not shape-shifters, only body snatchers. However, the young Wraiths still look quite vicious.

Jesse Garrett
1026 E. 18th Street
Stuart, FL 33494

The sorcerous Wraiths are capable of shape-shifting without killing their prey. Jesse, they merely have no desire to do so. Let's face it, these guys are nasty.

Dear Bill,

I've been reading ROM since issue #27 and never have I seen a more disgusting scene than in ROM #47. Other than that, I have no gripes.

Isaac Porter
10 Malibu Dr.
Magnolia, NJ 08049

Dear Bill,

RE: ROM #47.
What kind of twisted people are you?!
Bleech!!!

Bernard Gilbert
Boston, MA

Bleech? Really, Bernard, is that any way to talk to nice twisted people like us?

Now, for some comments on ROM #48, wherein the sorcerous Wraiths did in their science-oriented brothers...

Dear Marvelous People,

Wow! The true Wraith form revealed! The Witch Wraiths destroy the Sci-wraiths! Starshine in action against common hoodlums! What are the Skrulls up to? It's bad enough that one shape-shifting race is out to get us. The art is great! The stories are great! What isn't great about ROM?

J. P. St. Pierre
785 Del Riego
Leucadia, CA

Dear Bill and Sal,

I have just finished reading ROM #48, and I would say that on a scale of 1-10, this issue gets a 6 (ROM usually rates a 10).

The first thing was the two branches of the Wraith species tearing each other to pieces. Surely, they could have combined science and sorcery into some new Wraith menace for Rom and Starshine to confront. (Don't think that I'm a Wraith supporter. I want Rom to banish every last one of them.)

The second thing is Rom's pitiful attitude about his mission. I don't like his attitude since returning from Galador.

I hope that my discouraging comments haven't hurt anyone's feelings. I will continue to buy ROM (it's still in my top 10 favorite comics list). I can't wait to read ROM #49 and 50.

David Duncan
446 Slater Avenue
Springfield, MA 01119

Hey, David, don't worry. No one's feelings were hurt. We enjoy hearing everyone's comments on ROM, be they pro or con. How else will we know if you folks out there like what we're doing? And that's the important thing. Maybe we can explain a few things, though. The sorcerous Wraiths and the Sci-wraiths have detested each other since the Wraiths were forced to flee the Dark Nebula. There was never a chance that they would combine their talents to form a unified threat. Their hatred for each other was simply too great. And it's lucky for us, too. A combined science and sorcery offensive may have been too much even for Rom to handle.

As for Rom — well, he did lose his sense of purpose for awhile. But, since the coming of the new Wraiths and the destruction of Clairton, he is again acting like the Rom of old.

Dear Bill,

"Renunciation" (issue #48) was great, especially the first section. I really like the Witch-Wraiths better than the Sci-wraiths. They look more ominous, more frightening and more disgusting. Will we finally learn the truth about them, at last?

Rom is off the self-pity track and am I glad. Ever since ROM #42, he has wanted only one thing — to be human again. Now, he accepts what he is and why he is. ROM is the second best comic Marvel puts out (X-MEN being the best) and I hope it will be around for a looong time.

Dark Shroud
19 Oakley Dr.
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

Dear Bill,

ROM is pretty neat stuff. I do think you're getting too carried away with this all-powerful Wraith sorcery stuff. Please return to the old days when Rom fought the Wraiths in a more material world.

This book seems to me to be based on "The Day the Earth Stood Still" as we find corruption rampant on Earth and a higher power must be called on to help us. The Wraiths have been trying to infiltrate the Earth in a truly diabolical sense. We humans cannot recognize the threat because the Wraiths have been posing as our neighbors and friends for years!

But now the Wraiths are performing all kinds of magic and in the process, they have blown their cover. I just can't see such an ingenious race doing something that drastic over Rom.

I don't want to destroy all that Rom has worked to achieve. One thing I might suggest is that Rom move to a new urban location, where the inhabitants don't trust him; like Milwaukee.

James Krueger
17900 Anthony Lane
Brookfield, WI 53005

Like Milwaukee?

Seriously, James, the reason that the Wraiths have changed their tactics, other than the fact that the sorcerous Wraiths are now in charge, is that the old plan simply was not working. The Wraiths have been among us for years, as you point out, but they are no nearer taking over the Earth now than they were when they first came to this planet. Presently, they are using their power in a much more overt manner in hopes of quickly dominating our world.

NEXT ISSUE: The S.H.I.E.L.D. Hell-carrier attacked by Wraith Deathwings as Nick Fury enters the Wraith War! Rom and Starshine make a momentous appearance in Washington, D.C. And all the while, the Dire Wraiths continue their assault on Earth as "Paranoia Strikes Deep." We suggest you take a look!



scan : Old National



retouche : fpa01